

By MIKE WHITESMAN: Wycombe Wanderers 9, Oxford City 0,

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' shadow squad turned Loakes Park into Massacre Alley on Thursday night.

They made a mockery of the Section leaders tag carried by Oxford City for their top of the table Premier Floodlight League collision.

Those who missed the devastation of Oxford either choked down their cornflakes in amazement or understandably dismissed it as a misprint when they read the result in the morning's papers.

Those who braved the rainy, drab evening, still don't quite believe it.

But it's a fact. A Wycombe side, without John Delaney, Ted Powell, Larry Pritchard, Geoff Anthony, Les Hartridge, John Maskell, and Johnny Hutchinson, went within a 90th minute crossbar of double figures against the only other team previously undefeated in Section B.

Wanderers' most complete, most satisfying win of the season places them ahead on goal average with a game in hand.

Oxford fielded virtually their top ranking eleven, including former Wycombe men Hector Wells in goal, Keith Stephenson in defence and Julian Lailey in midfield.

City's coach and assistant manager John Fisher, also an ex-Wanderer, has some serious rethinking to do before he again sends an Oxford team to Loakes Park on Boxing Day for the annual Isthmian League holiday fixture.

For City were caught so open, so often that their comparative success this year takes some crediting. Placed high in the Isthmian ratings City are supposedly much strengthened from the mundane side which lost heavily to Wanderers twice last term.

A first half hat-trick by Keith Searle, a threesome for Tony Horseman, two for Bernie Bremer and even one for defender Ian Rundle, says otherwise.

Wanderers entered their 35th league, cup or friendly outing of the season just one away from a century of goals, and incredibly topped the ton in 45 seconds.

Charlie Gale's free kick flew at perfect level into the Oxford area where Searle placed a header to the side of Wells' diving body.

SECTION B

Wycombe Wanderers
Oxford City
Maidenhead United
Wealdstone
Chesham United
Slough Town
Marlow
Hemel Hempstead Town ...

Away wins count three points.

The breach made in the visitors' defence was wrenched even wider apart when Wells parried down Horseman's shot, and full back Ramsden was forced to punch a return from the active Alan Malcolmson off the line to concede a penalty in the next minute.

Tony's spot kick put Wanderers two up.

Malcolmson, an Ayr United Reserve in Wycombe for a ten week training course has been keeping in trim with Wanderers and signed on for the club to help them ease selection problems.

Already it was obvious Well's return to Wycombe would be a night to remember — or forget. But a less than powerful Searle effort was deflected into goal by a defender to prove the point as Wanderers raced three up in 15 minutes.

The Oxford back row, having conceded only four goals in five previous Premier League matches, was in a hopeless tangle.

Luckless Lailey, a lonely figure in no-man's land had precious little chance to create any positive Oxford moves, and the raids that did develop were almost all broken up by a strange looking Wanderers defence, in which Vince Faulkner looked a steadfast centre half, and Iain MacLean also impressed.

The few attempts to reach Kevin O'Brien, he dealt with admirably, making a string of catlike saves when required. Generally, however, City's attacks inevitably led to Wycombe counter attacks, as the home side maintained a fearsome pace.

While Horseman rushed the ball upfield in the 28th minute, Searle sprinted through the centre to meet the resultant cross and make it 4-0 in Wycombe's favour. Searle timed the move

P	W (AW)	D	L	F	A	Pts
5	5 (1)	0	0	24	3	11
6	4 (2)	1	1	11	13	11
8	4 (1)	0	4	11	12	9
7	2 (0)	3	2	10	9	7
9	0 (1)	2	5	10	19	7
7	2 (0)	2	3	8	9	6
8	2 (0)	2	4	15	17	6
6	1 (1)	2	3	6	13	5

just right for another second might well have seen him offside.

There was no doubt about goal number five eight minutes later, however. Wells only just managed to pull down Bremer's shot and Horseman followed up to bang the ball home off the crossbar.

Unfortunately from Oxford's viewpoint, Wycombe's tendency to ease off when well ahead at half time failed to deter them this time around.

With Wanderers' backs double covering themselves in fine fashion, the strikers set about the continuation of a slaughter no one had expected, and most were still finding hard to take in.

Three minutes into the new period, a spectacular goal—probably the best of the nine—zoomed in from an ultra-narrow angle off the powerful boot of Bremer.

Although Wells bodied down his first kick, Rundle volleyed in the return for number seven five minutes later.

What was left of Oxford's tattered defensive net was ripped to shreds after 71 minutes as a long high floater fell to ground and Bremer, whose run had begun from behind the half way line, took up possession and kept going all the way to goal. En route he slipped round Wells before sidefooting home while a defender raced back in desperation.

A bad 'keepers mistake by Wells allowed another narrow angled effort to find the mark — and complete a thoroughly deserved hat-trick for Horseman. The goal kept Tony one ahead in the leading scorer stakes.

A lobbed header, again from Horseman, looked destined to add the tenth breakthrough of the evening, but instead found the crossbar.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: K. O'Brien; I. MacLean, C. Gale, V. Faulkner, I. Rundle, B. Baker, K. Blunt, B. Bremer, K. Searle, A. Horseman, A. Malcolmson.

OXFORD CITY: H. Wells; M. Ramsden, M. Grafton, D. Firmin, K. Stephenson, J. Lailey, Booker, T. Stokes, J. Woodley, S. Moreton, J. McBride.

Attendance: 900.

Half time: 5-0. Goalscorers: Searle 3 (1, 15, 28), Horseman 3 (2, 36, 86), Bremer 2 (48, 71), Rundle (53).